



THE DECEMBER MEETING

This month we welcome to the rostrum Professor Les Barclay, G3HTF for his presentation "Topics in Modern Propagation Research".

Editorial Note:- While this Newsletter is in preparation, Les is working abroad and I have not been able to obtain from him any introductory details for these columns, however, judging from his previous presentation of "Working in Antarctica" we should enjoy an interesting and informative evening

Proceedings will get under way at 7.30pm with Chairman John, G8DET making the announcements and the introduction. As we are entering the festive season, Mince Pies (hot or cold as you wish) will be served with the cups of tea during the interval.

This meeting will be our last at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, before we move house to Beehive Lane; for the benefit of all members, a map showing the new location will be included in the January Newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 2 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Propagation - Les Barclay, G3HTF.
- 11 Dec. C.A.R.S CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - Great Waltham.
- 14 Dec. VERULAM ARC RALLY - Watford Leisure Centre.
- 6 Jan. CLUB MEETING - The Annual Film/Video Show.

C.A.R.S. CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Only one ticket remains for this event, any takers? We look forward to seeing you all at the "Beehive", Great Waltham on Thursday the 11th December, 7.30pm for Dinner at 8.00pm.

There is a reasonable amount of Car Parking but if you can share your car with friends it would be appreciated.

HOSPITALITY EVENING

We have received a letter from the Colchester Radio Amateurs inviting Club Members to their Hospitality Evening at the Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester on the 11th December 1997, at 7.30pm to 10.00pm.

There will be a light buffet meal and drinks, if you wish to attend could you please contact Frank Howe, G3FIJ, Tel: (01206) 851159, by Monday 8th December at the latest.

Unfortunately this is the same evening as our Christmas Social.

DF NEWS - Dick, G3WHR

The Mid-Essex Trophy took place on Sunday 5th October with Andrew Mead TxA and Philip Cunningham TxB doing duty as the hidden stations and Pat Hawkins as our starter. Usually an event is run on a single OS map, however, this year we used the top half of the Colchester map and the lower half of the Bury map. The bearings from the start at Nayland went NW towards Bury St Edmunds and E towards Manningtree.

I chose to find Andrew first and obtained a cross on the old railway track W of Lavenham where it passes through Lineage Wood. Arriving at the nearest access point, I found Andrew's car in the carpark with Mike Hawkins car already parked beside it. After a 1km run down the track I found a strong signal area in a ditch to the right of the track. I was not alone, plenty of bushbeating going on around me. Finally I spotted the aerial running along the bushes and followed it to where there was a small tunnel running into some thick underbrush. Here I found Andrew and son Peter, but I wasn't the first, they were very busy with forms being handed in from all around.

I made my way back to the car and set off to find Philip. The car in front of me looked familiar - it was Colin and Rosie Merry; they turned South before Lavenham but I was more interested in going

East so I carried on through the town and took the road for Hadleigh. At this point I found myself joining a vintage bicycle outing with penny farthings as outriders. It took a little while to get clear of them, perhaps Colin had chosen the better route. On my way to Hadleigh I was aware of another car catching up - Graham Phillips was soon on my tail and when I stopped for a bearing he went past. My bearing went straight through East Bergholt but the cross with the start bearing was in open fields; I had to take another bearing from Raydon and this time it was Mike Hawkins who drove past before I could restart. I followed Mike down to the A12 and was surprised when he drove straight on, my extra bearing had indicated a wood to the West of the town, the shorter route was to use the A12 and I took it. The transmitter had been on for a long time and the signal was nearly overloading when I parked up at the edge of the wood. I had only just locked the car when Peter Larbalestier arrived. We both ran down through the wood and along a fenced footpath. When the transmitter came on I was in the lead but the signal was getting weaker, I had overshot. I ran back but now Peter was ahead and searching the area near the fence. We ended up by a large tree with suspicious activity in the crown. Fortunately for me, my side was easier to climb - so I just pipped Peter to the Tx. You can't get a closer finish than two DF hunters climbing opposite sides of the same tree. Later on, Mike tried to pioneer a third route to the top but a branch came away in his hand and he descended the quick way - luckily no injury to person or df set.

Afterwards we enjoyed our usual Bring-a-Bite tea and the hospitality of Mike and Pat Hawkins at Gt. Cornard. The trophy is a welcome sight in my lounge, now if I can just catch up with Ian Butson.

Results	TxA	TxB
1 Dick Brocks	2.33	3.29
2 Peter Larbalestier	2.23	3.29+
3 Graham Phillips	2.32	3.52
4 Colin Merry	2.33	3.53
5 Mike Hawkins	2.35	3.54
6 Roy Emeny	4.03	2.59
7 Tim Parker	4.28	3.17
8 Robert DeLaRue	4.29	3.16

The 1998 DF season will start with our Snowman DF on Sunday, 19th February.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder for those who have not yet renewed their Subscriptions, these are now overdue. If you are not able to get to the next meeting please send to the address at the end of this Newsletter, cheques to be made payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society", where applicable new Membership cards will be sent with the next Newsletter.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING - Geoff, G7KLV

Time passes so quickly that it doesn't seem a year since I wrote a short piece about last year's Junk Sale or as our Chairman (none of that PC nonsense here!) puts it, The Chelmsford Annual Redistribution of Junk!

You may recall that following a drop in takings last year the future of our junk sales was discussed. Silly prices were being offered and a number of ideas were mooted to increase last years low takings of £95. The best idea was that put forward by Jan G7UVP and Chris G0IPU who sold off the surplus items at the Canvey rally and made a further £50 with all expenses paid!



Anyway, it appeared that members seemed to be in favour of retaining this time honoured event. Allowing for adequate viewing time, it was not until eight o'clock that Chairman John G8DET called us to order, pleaded for generous bids and introduced our Assistant Secretary and Hon. Auctioneer Colin, G0TRM. Anyone with an ounce of savvy can pass himself off fairly easily as an Assistant Secretary and get away with it! But it takes something rather special to run a successful auction. It takes patience, skill, a ready wit, a knowledge of what's being sold and a good measure of downright deviousness to make a successful auctioneer together with a degree of self-confidence, all necessary attributes when confronting a rapacious mob of forty bargain hunting CARS members! Colin demonstrated all these qualities for a couple of hours with only the odd sip of a colourless liquid to sustain him. He claimed it was only tap-water, but then he would!

A stray thought. Do secretaries always make good auctioneers? Our last Secretary Gwyn G4FKH certainly was!

Colin was assisted by two very able and experienced runners, Dick G3WHR and Chris G0IPU, who were kept busy all evening. At times they seemed to be running separate mini- auctions of their own!

We got away to a cracking start without the aid of that famous 20 pence bid for a working colour telly! Sorry, Dick! We'll never let you forget that!

All manner of items had been brought in by members and most were sold, the rest being put aside for a table at the Canvey rally. It seemed to me that the prices fetched for worthwhile items seemed rather low. For example, the Bird load (was it the warnings about beryllia that put people off?) and the aerial acquired for spares. It was only by executing some very nimble foot work did Dick avoid a disastrous confrontation with this telescopic wonder. Then there was the PSU that nearly came with a spare finger! You may remember Colin's other famous trick which involves a magnetic mount aerial and a 17 inch SVGA monitor!

Keeping a low profile and a cool head our Treasurer Brian G3CVI was meticulously recording every transaction. He tells me that the nett profit for the evening was £142-61. I had set out a table of redundant library items and magazines which made a further £9-67. ↗

A few more stray thoughts :-

1. Do you ever regret buying what you did?
2. Do you ever regret retiring from the bidding too soon?
3. Do you ever go in the shack the day after and think 'I should have taken that along'?
4. Do you ever throw something away and then think 'I should have saved that for the junk sale'?

To give our auctioneer a rest Andrew G4KQE told us about his and Andy Collet's various DF successes throughout the year and the consequent retention in the Club by jointly winning the DF Silver Rosebowl. Andrew has it for the first six months. He polished it up and brought it along to show us. Congratulations to both Andrews.

Finally, our thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening a light hearted and rip-roaring success by running and organising it, to those who contributed their junk and to all those who were good enough to part with their money to purchase said junk!

PS: Save any more junk for the Canvey Rally, 1st February 1998!

WATCH THIS SPACE

In the next issue of the Newsletter we will publish a map and details of the new location of the venue for our Club Meetings.

In the mean time, members are advised to survey Beehive Lane in daylight hours to find for themselves the entrance to the Marconi Athletic & Social Club.

Our meetings will be held in the Board Room

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th December, in the Marconi College, you are welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,
G3PMX & G6HKM

☎ (01245)360545

🚗 (0385)546963

E-mail Roy_Martyr@compuserve.com

1, High Houses,
Mashbury Road,
Great Waltham,
CHELMSFORD,
Essex, CM3 1EL.

Deadline for the next NewsLetter is Saturday 20th December.